



King County



Customer Newsletter

November 2010

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DDES customer service numbers

DDES General Customer Assistance

206-296-6600

Permit Application Appointments

206-296-6797

Billing Hotline

206-296-6659

DDES Records Center

206-296-6696

Media and Public Disclosure Inquiries

206-296-6682

DDES Director, John Starbard

206-296-6700

Building and Fire Svcs. Director, Jim Chan

206-296-6740

Permit Center, Jarrod Lewis

206-296-6713

Plan Review, Chris Ricketts

206-296-6750

Building Inspections, Bernard Moore

206-296-6762

Code Enforcement Customer Service

206-296-6680

Current Planning, Lisa Dinsmore

206-296-7171

Land Use Division Director, Randy Sandin

206-296-6778

Engineering, Molly Johnson

206-296-7178

Clearing & Grading, Steve Bottheim

206-296-7144

Critical Areas, Steve Bottheim

206-296-7144

Helping our community provide affordable housing DDES authorizes early start for Strength of Place Village

The Strength of Place affordable housing project will be constructed next year in the White Center area and will provide 30 units of housing for low-income individuals, including six units dedicated to homeless families. DDES is responsible for reviewing and issuing the related construction permits and we are proud to have collaborated with the Capitol Hill Housing Group to review the construction plans for this important community asset.

Because of a complex funding strategy, the Capitol Hill Housing Group required permit issuance within specific and very short timeframes. DDES project managers have taken several creative steps in order to accommodate this need.

First, we issued a Pre-Issuance Construction Approval (PICA) allowing certain elementary portions of construction to begin prior to permit issuance. We then separated the requirement for a Right of Way Use Permit away from the main construction permit, so that the construction permit will be issued sooner. The King County Roads Division has also issued a Roads Variance and we continue to meet regularly with the King Capitol Hill Housing Group to ensure that permit reviews and transfers of critical information occur as efficiently as possible.

Facilitating an early start for the Strength of Place Village brings to life the DDES core values of *Excellent Service*, *Innovation* and *Teamwork*. **For additional information, contact Building Official Chris Ricketts at 206-296-6750.**



King County Executive Dow Constantine joins project funders and members of the White Center community at the Sept. 15, 2010 ground breaking ceremony to kick off construction for the Strength of Place (SOP) Village housing project. When completed next summer, the project will offer 30 units of housing for low-income individuals and families, including six units dedicated to homeless families.

DDES returns to 5-day work schedule in 2011

DDES is pleased to restore service to a full business week next year. **Beginning in January, 2011 customers can expect the DDES Permit Center to be open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.**

DDES accepts electronic plans for all single family home applications

King County's Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES) has reduced the cost of preparing residential permit applications by implementing an electronic review (eReview) process. This refers to acceptance, review and approval of plan submittals electronically. eReview started as a pilot project with registered plans in October 2006 and is now expanding to all new, single family residential permit applications.

Electronic submission of plans is a generally accepted practice in the construction industry that saves customers hundreds of dollars in printing and storage costs. DDES is pleased to use this technology to better serve customers and also reduce costs in the wake of this difficult economy.

DDES Director John Starbard said, "At DDES we are continually looking for ways to bring efficiency to the permit review process in order to deliver permits faster and reduce costs for our customers."

Electronic plan submittal for residential projects can replace the requirement for submitting two paper copies of building plans. Electronic plans need to be submitted to DDES in a PDF format. (Many CAD programs have the option of saving the drawing as a PDF file). DDES can then add comments and notes without changing the underlying drawing. Please see the DDES Web site at www.kingcounty.gov/property/permits/FAQ/eReview.aspx for additional technical guidance.

For additional information or assistance with the DDES eReview process, please contact Chris Ricketts, Building Official, at 206-296-6750 or Paula Adams, DDES Public Information and Records Officer, at 206-296-6682.

Properly calculated snow loads will preserve your structure during the winter

Over the years Western Washington has seen several roof collapses due to heavy snow loads and inadequately designed structures. Due to our typically wet snow conditions, snow loads in Western Washington are some of the highest in the nation. The minimum design load increases significantly with elevation and proximity to the passes. It is critical to make sure that your design professional has accounted for this design variable. You can find the DDES snow loads maps on our website at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/property/permits/gis/ReferenceMaps.aspx>.

King County has a Virtual Map Counter online at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/operations/GIS/Maps/VMC/Environment.aspx>. The Virtual Map Counter also has Ground Snow Load Analysis maps.

If you have any questions regarding snow loads or building code requirements, please contact a DDES Building Plans Examiner at 206-296-6600.

2009 Washington state energy code update

In June of this year, the State Building Code Council (SBCC) delayed adoption of the 2009 Washington State Energy Code for further consideration. On October 15th the SBCC voted to move forward with adoption of the new energy code, with an effective implementation date of January 1, 2011.

For DDES' customers this means that new building permit applications must comply with the new State Energy Code as of January 1, 2011. For those builders who have already been meeting green building standards, the changes in the new code will likely be negligible. DDES is prepared to assist any applicant who has questions regarding the new requirements. Please see our 2009 State Energy Code guidance forms on the web at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/property/permits/publications/forms.aspx>.

If you have questions on the State Energy Code or green building design, please contact Jane McPherson at 206-296-7255.

King County Fire Marshal Lifts Burn Ban Monitor status at www.kingcounty.gov/permits

In concert with Pierce, Kitsap and Mason Counties and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, **The King County Fire Marshal's Office has lifted the burn ban.** The burn ban is lifted in areas outside the jurisdiction of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. The Clean Air Agency is the air quality authority for the greater Puget Sound area and restricts burning in the more urban, densely populated areas.

Burning in King County, outside of the Clean Air Agency boundaries, requires a permit from your local fire district and the following regulations apply:

- Only natural vegetation shall be burned. The fire shall not contain any rubber products, asphalt products, petroleum products, plastics, garbage, dead animals or other waste materials.
- Persons and equipment capable of extinguishing the fire shall be on the burn site and in attendance at all times.
- A distance of 50 feet must be maintained between the burn pile and any structure or combustible material.

To find out if you are outside of the jurisdiction of the Clean Air Agency, please call **1-800-552-3565**.

DDES maintains up-to-date information regarding whether outdoor burning is allowed in the unincorporated area on the DDES website at www.kingcounty.gov/permits. Simply click on BURN BAN.

For more information on local fire restrictions, the public can call the King County Fire Marshal's Office at 206-296-6675, your local fire district, or 1-800-323-BURN.